

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4471

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FURMAAA/COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

CTF SIX ZERO IMMEDIATE

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS/NMCC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

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USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, MARR, OCLR, SSEC

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION BREAKS OUT OT VISITS BY U.S. NAVAL VESSELS

1. LIMITED BUT DETERMINED OPPOSITION HAS BEEN MOUNTED TO THE VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF RHODES BY THE USS AMERICA (MAY 24-26) AND USS MCCANDLESS (MAY 24-27) AND A SIMULTANEOUS VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF MYKONOS BY THE DESTROYER USS H.E. YARNELL (MAY 24-26). THE FACTS ARE NOT ALL YET CLEAR, BUT A RELATIVELY WELL ORGANIZED GROUP NUMBERING AT LEAST A FEW HUNDRED IN RHODES, AND A LESSER BODY IN MYKONOS ARE STAGING A STAUNCH EFFORT AT THE PORT AREAS TO DISRUPT THE VISITS AND TO PEVENT LIBERTY PARTIES FROM LANDING. EMBASSY AND DAO
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OFFICERS (INCLUDING POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND DEFATT) ON THE

SPOT ARE WORKING CONSTANTLY WITH U.S. NAVY COMMANDERS AND AND THE GREEK LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THE AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOG AUTHROITIES IN ATHENS IN ORDER TO PUT LIBERTY PARTIES ASHORE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND TO COMPLETE THE VISITS SUCCESSFULLY.

2. IN RHODES, SOME POLITICIANS AND LOCAL ELEMENTS ARE OPPOSING THE VISIT TO THAT PORT BY THE USS AMERICA AND THE USS MCCANDLESS. WHILE THE RESIDENT OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ARE ATTEMPTING TO DISPERSE THE DEMONSTRATORS, AS OF THIS MOMENT THEY HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS IN THEIR EFFORTS. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SHARP CLASHES BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL THERE. IN THENS, THE HIGHEST LEVEL GOG AUTHORITIES LAST NIGHT EXPRESSED EXTREME CONCERN AT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODES AND HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES DURING THE COUSE OF EVENTS. ADDITIONAL TRAINED RIOT POLICE AND SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SENT TO RHODES, AND THIS AFTERNOON MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT, GOEROG RALLIS, WAS SENT TO TAKE CHARGE PERSONALLY OF THE SITUATION.

3. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN TODAY PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING TEXT WITH REGARD TO RHODES: "A GOVERNMENT SOURCE, COMMENTING ON THE INCIDENTS IN RHODES YESTERDAY, SAID THAT SUCH INCIDENTS WERE BOTH INADMISSIBLE AND DAMAGING. IT WAS INTOLERABLE FOR A MINORITY OF CERTAIN PARTY AFFILIATES TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE NATIONS'S FOREIGN POLICY BY FORCEFUL MEANS. IN ANY WELL-ADMINISTERED AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY THE FOREIGN POLICY LINE AND THE ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WAS AND WHAT WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST LAY WITH THE LAWFULLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THE RHODES DEMONSTRATORS HAD IGNORED THIS BASIC DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE, AND HARMED THE ECONOMIC INTEESTS OF THE ISLAND AT A TIME WHEN THE TOURIST SEASON WAS IN FULL SWING. THEY WOULD BE DEALT WITH AS PROVIDED FOR BY LAW. THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THOSE WHO HAD FOMENTED THE INCIDENTS WOULD ALSO FACE THE ACTIVE DISAPPROVAL FO THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE ISLAND'S LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS, WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD SHOWN THEIR DISPLEASURE BY STATMENTS PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL SUNDAY PRESS."

4. ON MYKONOS, OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT OF THE USS YARNELL IS ALSO TAKING PLACE. A LIBERTY BOAT FROM THE SHIP WAS PREVENTED FROM LANDING BY DEMONSTRATORS. THE SITUATION IS FURTHER HINDERED BY THE LACK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL THERE (REPORTEDLY TEN POLICEMENT) SO THAT THE

LOCAL CHIEF OF POLICE AND HARBOR MASTER HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT A LIBERTY PARTY BE MADE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WHILE COOPERATING IN BOTH CASES, THE GOG HAS PREFERRED TO DEAL MORE DIRECTLY AND FORCEFULLY WITH THE PROBLEM IN RHODES WHICH POSES MUCH MORE PROMINENT CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY.

5. THE OPPOSITION TO THE VISITS HAS BEEN CARRIED WIDELY IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED IN LARGE PART BY THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE ATTEMPTED 48-HOUR NATIONAL STRIKE IN GREECE AND THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION OCCURRING IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS THIS AFTERNOON (SEPTEL).

6. IN ANY CASE WE HAVE NOT BELIEVED THAT THE VESSELS SHOULD DEPART PRIOR TO THE END OF THE SCHEDULED VISIT DATES UNLESS THE GOG OFFICIALLY REQUESTS IT--AND IT HAS NOT. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO COMPLETE THE PORT VISITS AS SUCCESSFULLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO PUT THE LIBERTY PARTIES ASHORE IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT AND THE GOG AUTHORITIES ASSURE US OF THE SAFETY OF THESE LIBERTY PARTIES.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS AVAILABLE TOGETHER WITH EMBASSY COMMENTS BY A SEPARATE TELEGRAM UPON COMPLETION OF THESE TWO VISITS.
KUBISCH

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